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and in fact (to use a *strong* expression) this *nakedness of dress* must (provided Madam W's reasoning be right) form an impenetrable *cloak* against the detection of the vices of the present day.

I must, however, warn my fair readers of one unpleasant consequence resulting from the present fashions: our climate is almost proverbially unsteady, which may frequently make the dress suitable for the meridian heat, a source of disease and death, when continued to be adopted without alteration, during the whole twenty-four hours of revelry and dissipation; a source of inconvenience and disappointment this, which is to be seriously regretted by every true fashionable. How many delightful opportunities of giving a husband an additional title, to distinguish him from the common *herd* of society, have been lost by the unlucky interference of a severe *twinge* of the rheumatism! How many charming *Dejeunés* have been given up to the imperious commands of the tooth-ache and flannel, and how frequently has a feverish cold carried off our fair friends just at the commencement of a new fashion! how provoking! how vexatious!!

I own that the system of painting certain parts of the body, so generally adopted at present, in some measure remedies the ill-effects arising from the nakedness of those parts. It stops up the pores so effectually as to prevent (like the centinel of a besieged town) any thing from going out or coming in, and indeed I would most seriously advise my fair countrywomen either to lay on more clothes, or more paints. Something of the kind must be resorted to, unless the fair martyrs wish the coroner's inquest to return the verdict of *lunacy* in the event of their demises.

It is usual at the sale of slaves in the West Indies and America, to expose the unfortunate victims in a complete state of nakedness, in order that they may be thoroughly examined respecting the state of their health, the soundness of their limbs, &c. Thus every body has a fair chance of suiting his fancy or his wants, and if a purchaser shall have overlooked any defect, he may afterwards notice in his purchase, he can have nobody to blame but himself, as at the sale he was permitted to *handle* and *examine* in every direction.

The system seems to be coming into pretty general practice in these countries, on what principle I know not, unless it may have been considered absolutely necessary for the preservation of society that it should be adhered to, and as the abolition of the slave-trade has threatened to do away the *naked examinations* in the *new world*, we of the old, with a laudable violation of common decency, are determined to perpetuate the practice in our own persons; and, indeed, whenever I see a fair *exposée* tripping it gaily along some of the public walks, I cannot help suspecting her of intending to exhibit herself for examination in the *slave-market* to those who may choose to purchase. W.

Newry, 10th Oct. 1808.

To the Editor of the Belfast Magazine.

SIR,

THE experiments made by Count Rumford, in order to ascertain whether Caloric was possessed of any gravity, and which have been alluded to, in your last number, under the article Caloric, seem to me by no means so conclusive, as to leave the matter perfectly free from being questionable. The Count, if I remember right, dwelt much on the exceeding accuracy of the balance he used on the occasion, and without intending to imply a doubt as to the care he took in procuring a very delicate instrument, determining the exact equilibrium of the bottles, &c. I do not feel fully satisfied that it was possible for him to be able to decide upon a case of so very delicate a nature, with the help of the very best instruments that could be formed by the ingenuity of man.

The gravity of light, has been attempted to be proved, by a Mr. Winter of Whitby, by the help of a very simple analogy; taking it for granted, that (as in the case of *air*, or *water*) the densities of different fluids, are as their resistances *reciprocally*, and that in the same manner their undulations, or velocities, are to each other, as their specific gravities; thus he found that the weight of solar light, was to that of air nearly in the ratio of 400,000, to 1, and

consequently that the specific gravity of light is to that of water, as 400,000,000, to 1, nearly. Allowing the velocity of solar light and heat, to be simultaneous, the ratio of the specific gravity of heat to that of water must also be nearly as 400,000,000 to one.

Supposing that the contents of each bottle used by the Count, to weigh 2lbs. Troy, and that the bulk of the caloric capable of reducing the ice to a state of fluidity amounted to ¼ the bulk of the ice, there would be added to the absolute weight of the latter, about the 500 millioneth part of its original weight, which it would be impossible to ascertain by means of the nicest balance. All therefore that can with propriety be deduced from the Count's experiments, is that the gravity of caloric is so very trifling as to baffle the application of practical experiments in proving it.

I am Sir, yours, &c. &c.

Newry, 18th Oct. W.

To the Editor of the Belfast Magazine.

SIR,

ACCORDING to the theory of Lavoisier, the combination of *light* and oxygen, exhibits itself in the form of fire.

To adopt the language of your Correspondent *Mechanicus*, soaring in *the high and rarefied atmosphere of theory*, is of little service without keeping our eyes attentively fixed also on practical experiments; I have found this amply verified in putting the subject of your Correspondent C. D. to the test of experiment. At the distance of 18 inches, from a fire, I this day placed a thermometer in a room completely dark; the thermometer rose to 109 degrees, where it remained stationary. I then threw open the window shutters, and admitted the light of the sun to strike on the fire; and the thermometer most *obstinately* remained at 109 degrees.

A pint of water also boiled on a fire in a darkened room; and another pint on a second fire, exposed to the action of solar light, in exactly the same time.

N. B. the heat of both the fires was found to be the same by the help of the thermometer.

As it is in the power of your Correspondent, to make the experiment for himself, he will be enabled to satisfy his curiosity very easily on the subject. I need not say any thing in addition, but that as I fell into an error, from depending merely on theory, I am glad my practical experiment has afforded me an opportunity of detecting and acknowledging it thus publicly. I am sir, your constant reader.

16th Oct. 1808. TYRO.

To the Editor of the Belfast Magazine.

Monstrum horrendum, informe, ingens: stat nomine *Humbug*.

MR. EDITOR,

COMPLAINT is the privilege of the sufferer: I therefore claim your attention, until I state my grievance.

I am obliged to reside in a small town. This, of itself, forms no part of my complaint; as to me, what is termed want of society, presents no horrors. My pursuits are rather out of fashion, and my modes of thinking equally so; as for example, I find little inducement to prefer the insipid gossipping of a tea-table, or what is technically named, *a ghost*, to the interesting converse my inclinations lead me to cultivate "with the mighty dead."

How striking the contrast!....On the one side the frivolous, the perts, the insipid, disgusting with the nauseous repetitions of worn-out witticisms, nauseous even to the utterer, and given through the mere incapacity of presenting better; on the other, those whom Richard de Bury feelingly and not inelegantly describes (speaking of his books) "Hi sunt magistri, qui nos instruunt sine virgis & ferulâ, sine verbis & colera, sine pane & pecunia. Si accedis, non dormiunt; si inquiris, non se abscondunt; non remurmurant, si oberres; cachinnos nesciunt, si ignores."*

* Richard de Bury died in 1345. On the accession of Edward III. he was made successively Bishop of Durham, Chancellor and Treasurer of England. He was singularly studious, and his passion for books rose, as he himself acknowledges, to a pitch of madness. He had considerable riches, and expended the whole in purchasing scarce and curious manuscripts, and getting others copied. The